

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 13672 141622Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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S E C R E T MOSCOW 13672

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM TOON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: UR
SUBJECT: ARREST OF U.S. BUSINESSMAN
REF: STATE 149573, MOSCOW 13357

1. THE LAST SENTENCE ON THE NONPAPER DOBRYNIN GAVE YOU JUNE 9 ON CHERNYAYEV AND ENGER (RECEIVED HERE ONLY TODAY) MAKES IT CLEAR--IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT FURTHER PROOF WERE NEEDED--THAT CRAWFORD'S ARREST IS A DIRECT RETALIATION BY THE SOVIETS FOR OUR ARREST OF CHERNYAYEV AND ENGE. SOVIET INTENTION IS DOUBTLESS TO HOLD CRAWFORD UNTIL CHERNYAYEV AND ENGER TRIAL, AND IF LATTER ARE CONVICTED--AND THERE IS NO INDICATION OF THEIR EARLY RELEASE--TO THROW BOOK AT CRAWFORD. CRAWFORD INFORMED OUR CONSUL YESTERDAY THAT HE IS INNOCENT OF CHARGES. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO KNOW FOR SURE WHETHER HE IS IN FACT GUILTY OF SOME PECADILLO, THE SOVIETS MOVE IN THIS FASHION ONLY WHEN THEY HAVE A POLITICAL REASON TO DO SO. THEY OF COURSE CAN FABRICATE AS MUCH "EVIDENCE" AS THEY WISH, SO THAT INNOCENCE IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSE FOR CRAWFORD.

2. I CONSIDER IT MOST LIKELY THAT WITHIN A FEW DAYS

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SOVIETS WILL PROCEED TO ARREST ANOTHER U.S. CITIZEN ON REAL OR TRUMPED-UP CHARGES SO AS TO HAVE TWO HOSTAGES TO MATCH CHERNYAYEV AND ENGER.

3. ALTHOUGH I BELIEVE WE SHOULD AVOID ACTIONS WHICH WOULD GRATUITOUSLY EXACERBATE THE SITUATION, THERE ARE SOME STEPS WE CAN TAKE WHICH WILL EXACT AT LEAST A

CERTAIN PRICE FOR THIS FLAGRANT BLACKMAIL. THESE INVOLVE REFUSAL OF SOVIET REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION IN THE U.S. AND A PROGRESSIVE REDUCTION OF THEIR BLOATED COMMERCIAL PRESENCE. MY DETAILLED RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED BY EXDIS SEPTTEL.

4. NOTE ON "WOODBIDGE DUO" WHICH DOBRYNIN HANDED YOU IS EVEN MORE IMPERTINENT THAN HIS NON-PAPER ON THE CHANCERY PENETRATION. THE STEPS I RECOMMENDED IN MY 13357 ARE THUS STRONGLY REINFORCED BY THIS LATEST EXAMPLE OF CONSUMMATE SOVIET GALL. TOON

SECRET

NNN

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